GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3212
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2015
Safety Measures at Leh Airport
Senguttuvan Shri Balasubramaniam

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing standards of safety measures in Leh airport adequately meet the safety requirements prescribed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for operating civilian aircraft, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Indian Commercial Pilots Association has issued a directive to its members calling on them not to operate flights to Leh as civilian aviation operations to the airport fail to meet the standards of safety requirements fixed by DGCA, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the high altitude, poor visibility, low clouds and strong tail winds are often cited as the reasons for the lack of safety in the operation of civilian flights, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps initiated to continue the civilian aviation flights to Leh and to make it safe by keeping up the standards prescribed by the DGCA?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) The Leh airport is managed and operated by Indian Air Force (IAF) which provides adequate facilities for ensuring safety of aircraft operations.

(b) Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) had issued the directive. However, the same was addressed and clarified by the airlines

(c) & (d) Leh airport is surrounded by hilly terrain, therefore flight operations are carried out under Visual Flight Rules (VFR). Due to terrain constraints, Leh aerodrome is considered for special operations as per guidelines given in Operations Circular 2 of 2012. This requires preparation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and additional training and experience requirements for the flight crew by airline operators. Moreover, routes and weather standards are continuously monitored and procedures are improved upon as and when technology and airspace allows.